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A COLLECTION OF SPEECHES OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY Late EARL of *Warrington*,

VIZ.

I. His Speech upon his being Sworn *Mayor* of *Chester*, in *November*, 1691.

II. His Speech to the Grand-Jury at *Chester*, *April* 13. 1692.

III. His Charge to the Grand-Jury at the Quarter-Sessions held for the County of *Chester*, on the 11th. of *Octob.* 1692

IV. His Charge to the Grand-Jury at the Quarter-Sessions. Held for the County of *Chester*, on the 25th. day of *April*, 1693.

LONDON:

Printed for *Richard Baldwin*, near the *Oxford-Arms* in *Warwick Lane*, 1694.

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LATE EARL OF CLARENDON.

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

THE SPEECH

Of the RIGHT HONOURABLE

HENRY

EARL of *Warrington*;

Upon his being Sworn

MAYOR of Chester,

In *NOVEMBER*, 1691.

I AM much oblig'd to you, for the respect you have done me, by putting this Trust into my hands; and your kindness is the greater, because you did it without *any Solicitation* on my part; for I did so little expect it, that I was extreamly Surpriz'd when I read my Predecessor's Letter, which gave me to understand, That your *Choice* of a *Mayor* for the Year ensuing was fallen upon me; it is a *great Trust* that you repose in me, and I hope I shall not Disappoint you in the *Confidence* you have of me.

It is with some Inconvenience to my *private Affairs*, That I have taken this Journey; yet had my particular Occasions suffer'd *more*, I should have made no difficulty

in postponing them, when an opportunity offers it self of doing *any Service* to the Publick, or to this *Corporation*; neither could I have been excusable, if I should have put so *great* a *slight* upon the Respect and good Will of my Friends, as to refuse to Serve them in this, or any other Capacity.

By the *Oath* I have now taken, I have oblig'd my self *before God and the World*, to that, to which my own Inclinations did zealously dispose me; for it was with *extream Grief*, when in the late Reigns I beheld your Liberties and Franchises were *Ravish'd* from you: What in me lies, shall not be wanting to *repair those Breaches* that have been made, and to prevent the like *Invasions* for the future.

I hope during *this King's* Life we are out of such Dangers, since the offering up of *Charters* can be no *acceptable Sacrifice* to him, because he came to the Crown upon **English Principles**, and Governing *by such Politicks, is that alone which can make him Safe and Glorious.* But you may remember, that lately we had Two Kings, to whom nothing was so acceptable, as the submitting our Religion and Liberties to their Arbitrary Wills and Pleasure; and this Nation was then so unfortunate, as to have a Party in it, tho much the least, who were industrious to comply with those two Kings, in their wicked Desires.

The first step made by that Party was in their *fulsome Addresses*, where they deliver'd up themselves, and all they had, to be disposed of at the King's Pleasure: Making *no other claim* to their Liberties and Civil Rights, but as *Concessions from the Crown*; telling the King withal, That every one of his Commands was *Stampt* with *God's Authority*; and a great deal of such nauseous Stuff, much fitter to be offer'd to some *Eastern* Monarch, or the *French* King, than to a King of *England* governing by the Laws of the Realm.

Well

Well had it been, if their Falſhood and Flattery had gone no further; but contrary to their Oath, and the Truſt repoſed in them, they proceeded to the Surrendring of Charters; a thing ſo contrary to *Juſtice*, and *inconſiſtent* with the *Fundamentals* of the Government of *England*, that if ſuch Surrenders can be juſtified, I don't ſee what can be *Diſhoneſt* or *Unlawful*: yet ſuch Proceedings became a *Teſt* of Loyalty, by which they thought to recommend themſelves to the King's Favour, whilſt thoſe who *diſſented* in this point were accounted *diſaffected* to the Government, and were loaded with all manner of Reproaches: But Gentlemen, till then it was never accounted *Liberality*, to be generous at the *expence* of others: nor the uſual way of recommending a man's Fidelity, by *betraying* of a *Truſt*; nor to bring a man's *word* into *credit* by making *light of an Oath*.

Theſe things I mention, not that I deſire to keep up *Diviſions* amongſt us, or to diſcourage any that are *ſorry* for what they have done, and are willing to come into the *Intereſt* of this Government; for I wiſh from my Soul that we were all of a mind; but I mention theſe things, to teſtify my diſlike of *ſuch Proceedings*, and to ſhew how much I deſire to prevent the like for the future. For I am ſure no man can be *hearty* for this Government, who does not *abhor* ſuch Proceedings as theſe were. And ſaying this, it puts me in mind of an Obſervation which I have made for ſome time, which is this, That generally thoſe people who *refuſe* to take the *Oaths* to this King and Queen, are ſuch as were active in, or conſenting to the *ſurrendring of Charters*, which ſhews they are men of extraordinary Conſciences, who think it *unlawful* to Swear to this Government, and yet could think it not only *lawful*, but an Act of *unſhaken Loyalty*, to break their *Oaths*, and *betray their Truſt*.

If there be any ſuch in this Corporation, I hope they are but few, and will ſerve as *Examples*, not of *Imitation*, but

Admoni-

Admonition, to put others in mind of their *Oaths* and *Duty*.

Gentlemen, Let us preserve our *Liberties* and *Freedoms*; he is the *most Loyal Subject that walks the neareſt to the Laws*; he that preſerves his Freedom and Birth-right, is better able to *ſerve* his *King* and *Country*, than he that has *parted* with them. Had not our *Forefathers* obſerved this Rule, we had had *no Liberties* to boaſt of; and ſurely we are bound to leave our *Poſterities* in the ſame Freedoms which we received from our *Forefathers*. Therefore let us bleſs God and the King for our *Wonderful Deliverance*; and let not the *Averſion* of ſome to this *Government*, make us remiſs in our Duty.

But, *Gentlemen*, in ſaying this, I don't deſign to perſuade any man to *Rigorous Courſes*, or to ſtretch the Law beyond its *Fair* and *Natural Conſtruction*, to ſerve a turn; I will never *practiſe* it my ſelf, nor adviſe any other to it; I *utterly diſliked* ſuch Proceedings in the Two late Reigns, and I am not now *better reconciled* to them. Let every man have right according as the Merits of his Cauſe ſhall deſerve: Let no man's Complexion or Opinion weigh at all. This *Impartial Method* will beſt ſupport the Honour and Peace of the City: Such *fair Treatment* will convince many of the *Reaſonableneſs* and *Juſtice* of this *Government*; at leaſt it will in a great meaſure *ſtop the mouths of Gain-ſayers*, and cannot fail to meet with good effect. What I have more to tell you, is, That I ſhall ever pray for, and endeavour the Proſperity of this City.

F I N I S.